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UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

INTERNATIONAL DIVISION

JUN 20 1975

Mr. George L. Cary  
Legislative Counsel  
Central Intelligence Agency

Dear Mr. Cary:

Thank you for your letter of June 10, 1975, concerning the sensitivity and security aspects of the information that our Office has gathered to respond to a request of Congressman Lucien N. Nedzi, Chairman of the Special Subcommittee on Intelligence, House Armed Services Committee.

On June 11, 1975, this matter was discussed with Messrs. Hogan and Slatinshek, staff members acting for Chairman Nedzi.

We are in agreement that the data gathered by Mr. Mattox during his review should be left in the custody of CIA for purposes of security. We also agree that background information not directly relevant to Chairman Nedzi's request will not be used in our report.

With these objectives in mind we have asked Mr. Mattox to:

- Prepare an original and two copies of the report. The original will be delivered to Chairman Nedzi. The two copies of the report as well as preliminary drafts will be placed in the custody of CIA
- Prepare and insert a page-by-page index for each of the three unclassified and one classified work-paper file left in your custody, and
- Retain one copy of each index for the General Accounting Office (GAO) file. This GAO file will be handled as classified material and contain no detailed information disclosed during the review.

Your letter of June 10 states the files will always be available to the Special Subcommittee on Intelligence.

We believe this thought should be extended to make the files available to this Office upon our request.


We do not believe that this action will compromise the security of the data in any manner since:

- The information can not be released to a third party without the concurrence of the CIA, as originator of the basic documents, i.e., memorandums, messages, and other classified matter initiated by the CIA
- The General Accounting Office does not release classified data to a third party without approval of the Agency which initiated the document and the approval of the congressman or committee to whom the report was made, and
- The files held in your custody would be available for further use by the General Accounting Office in the event a congressional reorganization of committees or subcommittees would, at some time in the future, alter the present committee jurisdiction over CIA.

Under these circumstances, we believe that you will agree that the information in the files held in your custody should be made available to us upon our written request as the need may arise.

We would appreciate it if you would obtain our written concurrence in the event you wish to destroy the four file folders, three unclassified and one classified, which we assembled during the course of our audit.

Sincerely yours,

  
J. K. Fasick  
Director

cc: The Honorable Lucien N. Nedzi  
Chairman, Special Subcommittee  
on Intelligence  
House Committee on Armed Services